Austin, Tex., Feb. 21, 1857.

Hon. J. D. Ritchison, Mayor, presiding.

Roll Called:


Absent: Aldermen Cummings, DeGesse, Metz, and Schneider - 4.

Minutes. The minutes of the last meeting of the City Council were adopted as printed.

Pet. B. McElroy. The Chair submitted a memorial from Mr. B. McElroy, in regard to the streets about his dwelling house. Referred to the Committee on streets, alleys, etc.

The same Committee reported favorably on the following petitions, ordinances and resolutions:

On an ordinance prohibiting the playing of football on the public streets of the City of Austin.

On a petition of citizens requesting that East Live Oak Street be continued through block No. 17, division 1; that San Marcos Street be continued south to Water Street; and that Cypress Street be continued east to San Marcos Street.

The Committee's report recommends the passage of an ordinance appropriating $1,200 for the purpose of purchasing the ground necessary to make these changes.

On a resolution instructing the City Engineer to have the Culvert on the north side of the east approach to East Pecan Street rock bridge extended east to East Avenue, or as far as may be necessary to render the same safe as a thoroughfare. The Committee's report recommends that the Culvert be extended twenty feet.

On an Ordinance appropriating $25 for the purpose of repairing the alley between Congress Avenue and Brazos Street, at its intersection with north side of Pecan Street.
On a resolution directing the City Marshal to cause the hogs, fences and all other obstructions on Sabine Street, between Fifth and Seventh Street, to be removed within ten days from the passage of this resolution, and as the street is burning on account of the obstructions in said street please lease from the City of Austin the portion of said street obstructed by them. The reports were not acted upon.

Bridge over Little Shoal Creek at the crossing of West Eleventh Street. The report was read and laid over.

The committee to whom was referred, at the last meeting of the Council, a verbal complaint from Mr. James H. Raymond, regarding the width of sidewalks on Pacific Street, West of Shoal Creek, reported, stating that they found Mr. Raymond entitled to a sidewalk adjoining his property fifteen feet in width, and recommending the widening of such width of sidewalk by the city engineer. The report is signed by Alderman Graham and Phillips, and, on motion, was adopted.

The Committee on finance and revenue, having been regularly reached under the Act for reports from standing committees, Mr. J. M. Odell, Chairman of the Committee, took the floor and called attention of the Council to an article which appeared in the Evening Cal, on this day, indirectly charging the mayor with misappropriating the funds placed at his disposal (Alderman Warthen, President of the Board of Aldermen, was called to the Chair) by the City Council in December 1876, for employing detectives, etc., and pronounced the charges false and untrue. He stated that he and the other gentlemen of his committee, Mr. W. B. Warthen and W. P. Walker, carefully examined the mayor's report of the expenditure of this fund, together with the vouchers, and found the mayor's statement full, explicit, and absolutely correct in every particular. (No vouchers for this fund.
were filed with the City Clerk.

Alderman Fisher moved that the Finance Committee furnish the Council, at its next meeting, with a detailed statement of the expenditure of the detective fund.

Mayor Robertson took the floor and stated that the article in the evening Call was a vile slander and a malicious falsehood, and originated in the mind of a base and cowardly person. He produced a written receipt from Matt W. Pinkerton covering all money paid to Pinkerton detectives, and read the Finance Committee's report which was made at the time he submitted his report and vouchers to them for investigation. The report is, in effect, the same as the statement made above by Mr. Adell.

Alderman Fisher withdrew his motion.

On motion of Alderman Phillips the city clerk prepared a resolution as follows:

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Austin, That the statement made by the mayor and Finance Committee regarding the expenditure of the detective fund is full, complete, and entirely satisfactory.

Aldermen Cummings and Metz Ame in.

The question of adopting the resolution was put and carried by the following vote:


Nays—None.

The Mayor then took the chair.

Alderman Jones introduced a petition from citizens of the Tenth ward, requesting that an appropriation be made to construct a wagon bridge across Willow Creek at its intersection with Willow Street. Referred to Committee on
The Committee on fire department reported favorably on a petition from the foreman of Hook & Ladder Company No. 1, for permission for the company to appoint a tillerman to be placed on the regular pay roll of the fire department, with the same pay. No action was taken on the report.

Alderman Fisher, for the special committee appointed to investigate the charges against the city engineer, asked for further time in which to submit their report. Granted.

The Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to lease one hundred acres of Greenwood Cemetery for one year, was taken up on its third reading, and read. Alderman Brush moved to lay the Ordinance on the table. Lost.

The Ordinance then passed by a vote of 11 to 6.

An Ordinance creating the office of Sanitary Inspector of the City of Austin, and prescribing the salary and duties of that officer, was taken up on its third reading and read. There being no objections the following amendments were offered:

By Alderman Fisher, to amend section 3, by striking out "$1,000" and inserting "$800," as an annual salary for Inspector. Carried.

By Alderman Cummings, to amend by striking out "$800" for salary, and the words "Sanitary inspector," where they occur in the ordinance, and inserting in lieu thereof "two policemen, who shall be under the superintendence and control of the City Marshal." The amendment was carried by a vote of 9 to 8.

The question having recurred to the final passage of the ordinance, it was put, and the vote stood 9 to 8. The chair announced he would decide by the next meeting whether
Dr. not the Ordinance had passed, according to the intent and meaning of the Charter.

Union Dept. Alderman Platt moved to reconsider the vote by which a resolution was adopted at the last meeting of the Council, giving the use and occupation of Cypress Street, between Congress Avenue and Colorado Street, to the Missouri Pacific and Houston and Texas Central Railroad Companies for union depot purposes. Lost.

Alderman Walker presented an Ordinance providing the sum of $1,000 for the purpose of extending the following streets, town: Live Oak Street and Delano Street, and widening the following named streets, town: San Marcos Street and Cypress Street.

All on. Alderman Metz was excused.

Opening of The Ordinance was read first time, after which a motion was made to suspend the rules and place the Ordinance on its second reading, which was adopted by the following vote:


Nays - Aldermen Fisher and Wortham - 2.

A motion was then made to suspend the rules and place the Ordinance on its third reading, which was rejected by the following vote:


Nays - Aldermen Brush, Campbell, Fisher, Owens and Wortham - 5.

fay posed Alderman Odell introduced an Ordinance appropriating the sum of $8,766.39 for the purpose of paying officers and regular employees of the City, and City and County hospital, each for the month of February, 1887; also, for payment of $5,000 for feeding city prisoners during the month of December, 1886, and January, 1887, and also
for payment of City Water Company for rent of hydrants, for protection from fire for the six months ending December 31, 1876. The Ordinance was read first time, after which motions were made to suspend the rules and place the Ordinance on its second and third readings, which were adopted by the following Vote:


On motion, the Ordinance then passed by the following Vote:


Alderman Jones called up an Ordinance appropriating $600 for the purpose of building a wooden bridge across Walker Creek, on Willow Street. The Ordinance was read first time, after which Alderman Cummings moved that a special Committee of six Aldermen be appointed to consider this Ordinance and all other questions of public improvements to be paid for out of the revenue of the City. Alderman Caldwell moved to amend the motion by making the Committee ten instead of six. Accepted.

Alderman Campbell moved to table the motion Carried.

A motion was made to suspend the rules and place the Ordinance on its second reading, which was adopted by the following Vote:


Alderman Schuler moved to refer the Ordinance to a special Committee of six Aldermen, who
shall consider it, and the propriety of constructing bridges elsewhere in the city, and report their conclusions to the Council.

Alderman Anderson moved to lay the motion on the table. Adopted.

Alderman Platt moved to strike out "$600" and insert "$1000." On motion of Alderman Anderson, the amendment was tabled. Motions were then made to suspend the rules and place the Ordinance on its third reading, and that the Ordinance do now pass, both of which were adopted by the following Vote:


Nay —

The mayor retired and Alderman Wortham, president of the Council, took the chair. An Ordinance to regulate and license auctioneers in the City of Austin, was presented and read first time, after which, motions were made to suspend the rules and place the Ordinance on its second and third readings, both of which were adopted by the following Vote:


Nay —

On motion, the Ordinance then passed. An Ordinance appropriating $25 for the purpose of repairing the alley between Congress Avenue and Brazos Street, at its intersection with the north side of Felan Street, was taken up, on its second reading and read, after which a motion was made to suspend the rules and place the Ordinance on its third reading, which was adopted by the following Vote:

Yea — Alderman Anderson, Brush, Caldwell, Campbell, Cummings, Fisher,

On motion, the Ordinances then passed.

Aldermen Platt & Caldwell were excused.

A motion was then made to adjourn. Lost.

Alderman Warren asked to be excused, but

Objection being made, a motion to return him

was made and adopted.

Bridge Rate. Alderman Campbell introduced an Ordinance making

an appropriation of $1,500, for building a bridge over

Little Pearl Creek, on Eighth or Hickory Street.

Referred to Committee on streets, alleys, etc.

Alderman Schuber presented an Ordinance

appropriating $200 for the purpose of reconstructing

the gutter on Pearl street.

The Ordinance was read first time, after

which, motions were made to suspend the rules,

and place the Ordinance on its second and

third reading, both of which were adopted by the

following vote:

Yea.- Aldermen Anderson,
Campbell, Cummings, Fisher, Graham, Jones,
Odell, Phillips, Schuber, Townsend, Walker,
Wellner, Wortham - 14.

On motion, the Ordinance then passed.

Alderman Graham offered an Ordinance

authorizing Austin Scott & Ladder Company
No. 1 to appoint a Tillerman, and making

provision for the pay of said Tillerman.

The Ordinance was read first time, after

which, motions were made to suspend the rules,

and place the Ordinance on its second and

third readings, both of which were adopted

by the following vote:

Yea.- Aldermen Anderson,
Brush, Campbell, Cummings, Fisher, Graham,
Jones, Odell, Phillips, Schuber, Townsend,

On motion, the Ordinance then passed.

Alderman Fisher presented a resolution, which

was then adopted, respectfully calling attention of
the legislature to the broken and unhealthy condition of the State House at its mouth. The resolution provides that the Mayor be authorized, by and once, communicate, at once, with the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate upon this subject.

Act 75

Alderman Brush introduced an ordinance to amend Article 75, Chapter 11, Title 2, of the Revised Penal Ordinances of the City of Austin.

The amendment relates to the obstruction of the sidewalks, and exempts grocers and merchants from liability for obstructing one-half of the lane with goods which are actually being received or shipped.

Alderman Schuber moved to refer the ordinance to the Committee on Ordinances. Lost.

A motion was then made to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its second reading, which was rejected by the following vote:


Nays—Alderman Schuber.

Alderman Wallner introduced an ordinance appropriating the sum of One thousand and seventy-seven dollars for the purpose of widening the bridge over Walker Creek, on Cherry Street. The Ordinance was read first time, after which a motion was made to suspend the rules and place the Ordinance on its second reading, which was lost by the following vote:


Nay—Alderman Schuber.

Ostrich—Alderman Jones offered a resolution instructing the marshal to remove obstructions in alley
February 21, 1857.

Adjoining the firemen's hall, at once.

On motion of Alderman Cummings, the resolution was tabled.

Alderman Phillips moved to reconsider the vote by which the resolution was tabled and lay that motion on the table. Adopted.

On motion, the Council adjourned.

Milton Morris,
City Clerk